

we help train attention on the real threat, after all, which is global terror? Can we focus our resources and attention away from things that are, if not positively loopy, at least very low priority, like national missile defense, to have priority placed on homeland security and finishing the job in Afghanistan?

It is time for this Congress to act like a coequal branch of government. Had we been doing that since September 11, we would have saved money, saved lives and enhanced our legitimacy and effectiveness around the world. Indeed, that world, Iraq and our troops all need us to do our job. Even the administration, while it may not recognize it, will be better off if Congress does its job.

Today Secretary Grossman said that he appreciated references about American staying power in Iraq. I would say that the real key to staying power is the trust and confidence of the American people. The administration's performance and inability to acknowledge its mistakes is undercutting the confidence of the people I represent and the people I meet from around the country. I hope our International Relations Committee and other relevant committees in Congress do their job to help rebuild the confidence, so badly shaken, of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ABUSE OF IRAQI PRISONERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are all deeply troubled by the graphic pictures which show U.S. military service members humiliating, torturing and sexually abusing Iraqi prisoners. The reports that U.S. military police and intelligence personnel violated the most basic standards of moral conduct in addition to the established tenets of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war have ignited outrage within this country and throughout the rest of the world. This situation has tarnished America's reputation as a guardian of individual civil liberties and as a protector of human rights. While the vast majority of our soldiers are doing their duty with dignity and with honor, the grotesque abuses of Iraqi prisoners are truly un-American. They go against everything our country stands for and holds dear. The images of these abuses are also a major setback in our war against terrorism. Our standing in the

Arab world has been seriously undermined as a result of what happened at Abu Ghraib.

As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have listened to the testimony and heard the explanations of the highest Pentagon leadership as to the abuses of Iraqi prisoners, but I am not convinced that these abuses are an isolated incident involving a few military members. The likelihood is that the lack of supervision that allowed them to occur may in fact be systemic, at least in some parts of the military intelligence and military police commands.

This crisis must be immediately dealt with through a full-fledged investigation into the breakdown of military regulations and the possibility of widespread prison abuse. Furthermore, the individuals responsible for perpetrating the abuses as well as their commanding officers must be held accountable for criminal wrongdoing. I do believe that accountability, however, should extend considerably beyond the prosecution of a handful of aberrant military personnel, private contractors and their supervisors. Responsibility starts at the top.

With the existence of additional photos and videos of Iraqi detainees still unreleased, it is likely that this crisis will not soon go away. The transfer of Iraqi sovereignty is set to occur on June 30. The Bush administration must drastically repair our standing in Iraq as well as with the rest of the world before we can responsibly extricate ourselves from this foreign policy blunder.

I emphasize foreign policy as opposed to military policy. Our military accomplished their objective nearly flawlessly by liberating the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's tyranny. But they were not prepared to be long-term occupiers. That should never be their role nor our national mission. The lack of a realistic exit strategy is one of the reasons that I so strongly opposed this preemptive and unilateral invasion.

Mr. Speaker, our mission in Iraq is at a crossroads. Our soldiers are struggling to complete their missions without the proper training or resources or support. The barbaric murder of Nicholas Berg clearly demonstrates the depth of the resistance we face. The murder of Nicholas Berg was a monstrous act for which there is no justification. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family. America's soldiers, in fact, are serving with honor. We stand behind our courageous men and women in uniform who are bearing the burden for this military action in Iraq, and we are deeply grateful for their patriotism, their courage and their sacrifice. But the security situation in Iraq has deteriorated rather than improved. Last month, we lost more soldiers in one month than at any time since the war began.

Mr. Speaker, our military was sent into battle without the right equipment or the necessary support. Helicopter pilots have flown battlefield

missions without the best available antimissile systems. According to a DOD commission report, roughly one-fourth of coalition deaths have occurred as a result of attacks on unarmored vehicles, because we do not have enough armored vehicles to go around. And our failure to forge a true coalition has forced thousands in the National Guard and Reserves to be away from their families and from their jobs for more than a year with no end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, a failure to condemn what is wrong is a failure to recognize what is right. Recently, a former leader of the 372nd Military Police Company stated that minimizing the conduct of these MPs that were responsible for the prison abuse by comparing it to the reckless and violent acts of the Iraqi insurgents is wholly beside the point. We must compare our actions to those of the men and women who have honorably served this country. We have to stand up for our standard of decency that we have set for the rest of the world and stand up to the enemies of freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time this evening to talk about a very serious situation occurring in Africa as we speak, a situation of ethnic cleansing in Darfur, Sudan, and Sudan's vicious campaign of terror which it is raining on its people.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2001, I came to this floor to speak about slavery and genocide perpetrated against the people of southern Sudan. I said then that innocent civilians are the victims in this war. We are well aware of the number of people killed, maimed, displaced and enslaved during that terrible conflict, which still goes on. Yet we as members of the international community failed to do the right thing, to end the suffering. In the north-south conflict, more than 2 million people perished and an estimated 5 million people have been displaced during the 40 years of this dread conflict. It is the same government that terrorized, enslaved and killed innocent civilians in the southern Sudan and the Nuba that is now yet again engaged in a terror campaign in Darfur in western Sudan.

When we thought that things were going well with the Sudan Peace Act